THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI B.S. RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Government has recognised that adoption is the ideal and most effective means of non-institutional support for the orphaned, destitute, abandoned, relinquished and neglected children as it provides the child are and protection in a family setting which is necessary for his/her total development.

The paramount interest of the Government is to ensure that as many children as possible are adopted in Indian families as it is believed that a child's development is best in his/her own cultural milieu. Therefore, this Ministry has been laying emphasis on promoting in-country adoption. Inter-country adoption will be reserted to only when all avenues of placement in Indian families have been exahusted.

In order to encourage in-country adoption and also to provide care, protection and nurturing to children of very young age (between 0-6 years), the Ministry of Welfare since 1992-93 has been implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for setting up of Homes (Shishu Greh) for infants for promoting in-country adoption. The Scheme is operated through non-Governmental Organisations and grants are given for setting up of Homes to maintain a minimum of 10-20 children between the age group of 0-6 years and place them in adoption in India families. At present 45 Homes are being assisted under the Scheme.

(c) and)d) In the case of the word 'Adoption' featuring in Passports, with effect from 20th August, 1996, the Ministry of External affairs has issued instructions vide para 171 of the Passport Manual, 1983, to all Passport issuing authorities not to give any indication in the Passport of the adopted child to the fact that he/she has been adopted. These instructions the now being scrupulously followed by all Regional Passport Officers/Passport Officers.

As per forms for Driving Licences and other documents prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1988, the fact of "adoption" or otherwise is not required.

(b) and (e) The onus for ensuring that the adopted child is integrated into the mainstream and also ensure whether the child comes to know the fact of his/her adoption during infant years is essentially dependent upon the adoptive parents, extended family and the community in which the child is living. The Placement Agencies have counseling sessions with the adoptive parents and the extended family prior to adoption as well as post adoption with regard to many factors which inter-alia include the communication of the fact of adoption to the child. The Government is also giving grants to Voluntary Coordinating Agencies to conduct Awareness Compaigns and Sensitisation Programmes for all matters pertaining to adoption.

Memorandum by FCI Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam against surrendering of godowns

*148. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam have submitted a Memorandum against surrendering of godowns;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union vide their Memo. No. Nil, dated 9.7.96 demanded retention of godown Nos. 5 and 6 at Vizag Port Trust (VPT) area. The Union had also demanded that FCI should acquire alternative land for construction of godown and till then the godowns in question should not be surrendered to the VPT.

(c) These godowns were handed over to VPT in June, 1995 (on the insistence of the V.P.T.). However, these godowns were hired by FCI as per its requirement and are continuing with the FCI.

Technology upgradation of small scale industires

*149. SHRI SAIFULLA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for technology